

REMARKS

Claims 26-29, 31, 33, and 35 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 26-29, 31, 33, and 35 have been amended, and claims 25, 30, 32, and 34 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Applicant greatly appreciates that the Office Action indicates that claims 26-29, 31, 33, and 35 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, allowable claims 26, 31, 33, and 35 are rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the respective canceled base claims 25, 30, 32, and 34.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to claims 26-29, 31, 33, and 35 because of various informalities. Claims 26-29, 31, 33, and 35 have been amended responsive to the objection. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 25, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishida (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,083). As indicated above, claims 25, 30, 32, and 34 have been canceled, and allowable claims 26, 31, 33, and 35 have been amended into independent form. Thus, the §102(b) rejection is now moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 26-29, 31, 33, and 35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 108426-00059.

Respectfully submitted,



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